

REMARKS

Extension of Time

A petition for a three-month extension of time accompanies this response

Regarding the double patenting rejection

The double patenting rejection over US Patent 6,713,177 is respectfully traversed.

The claims to this application are drawn to a specific type of electrical device, which has non-linear resistance. The device includes electrodes and a matrix of certain types of particles. The particles are conductive and have a nonconductive coating. Claim 10 is to a method for protecting electronic circuits.

Claim 2 of US 6,713,177 is to a material in the form of particles. The particles are not specified as being conductive, and the coating is not specified as being nonconductive. Thus, although certain materials covered by claim 2 of US 6,713,177 would be useful in the electrical device and method now claimed, not all would be. A selection would be necessary among the broad range of particles that fall within claim 2 of US 6,713,177.

Furthermore, claim 2 of US 6,713,177 does not teach or suggest that certain particles within its scope would exhibit non-linear resistance, or that such particles would be useful as a component of a non-linear resistive device.

For those reasons, claim 2 of US 6,713,177 does not teach or suggest the currently claimed invention. The double patenting rejection is therefore believed to be improper.

A timely notice of allowance is respectfully requested. The undersigned is available by telephone if a call would advance prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,
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